

CLAIMS

We Claim:

3 1. A method for sending a facsimile (fax) comprising the following:
4 selecting, by a user, a phone number for a fax destination from a database
5 residing on a handheld device;
6 sending the phone number from the handheld device to a fax machine via
7 wireless communication; and
8 sending a fax transmission by the fax machine to the fax destination.

1 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein before selecting the phone number, the
2 method includes the following:

3 loading, by the user, a document into the fax machine;
4 establishing communication between the fax machine and the handheld
5 device; and,
6 sending a command, by the fax machine to the handheld device,
7 requesting the handheld device to prompt the user for a fax number.

1 3. A method as in claim 1 additionally including the following:
2 querying the user, by the handheld device, whether to update a fax
3 number database residing on the fax machine with the phone number for the fax
4 destination from the database residing on the handheld device, including the
5 following:

1 sending a command from the handheld device to the fax machine
2 instructing the fax machine to update the fax number database residing on the
3 fax machine with the phone number for the fax destination.

1 4. A method as in claim 1 additionally including the following:
2 querying the user, by the handheld device, whether to update a fax
3 number database residing on the fax machine with the phone number for the fax
4 destination, including the following:

5 sending a command from the handheld device to the fax machine
6 instructing the fax machine to update the fax number database residing on the
7 fax machine with the phone number for the fax destination, the phone number
8 and additional information associated with the phone number being included
9 with the command.

1 5. A method as in claim 1 wherein sending the phone number from the
2 handheld device to the fax machine includes the following:

3 sending along with the phone number additional information stored in the
4 database residing on the handheld device, the additional information being
5 associated with the phone number.

1 6. A method as in claim 1 wherein selecting, by the user, the phone
2 number for the fax destination includes selecting, by the user, at least one more
3 additional phone number for at least one additional fax destination.

1 7. A method as in claim 1, wherein before selecting the phone number, the
2 method includes the following:
3 selecting, by the user, a discover option on the handheld device; and
4 loading, by the user, a document into the fax machine.

1 8. A method as in claim 1 wherein sending the phone number from the
2 handheld device to the fax machine includes the following:
3 sending an initiate fax command along with the phone number.

1 9. A method as in claim 1 wherein the handheld device is one of the
2 following:
3 a cell phone;
4 a personal digital assistant.

1 10. A fax machine comprising:
2 a document input;
3 a wireless communication block; and,
4 a controller, the controller, detects that a user has loaded a document into
5 the fax machine, and attempts to use the wireless communication block to
6 establish communication with a handheld device, and after establishing
7 communication, receives from the handheld device a fax number for a fax
8 destination.

1 11. A fax machine as in claim 10 wherein the fax machine, upon receiving
2 the fax number from the handheld device, sends a facsimile transmission to the
3 fax destination.

1 12. A fax machine as in claim 10 additionally comprising:
2 a memory in which is stored a fax number database, wherein upon the fax
3 machine receiving a command from the handheld device instructing the fax
4 machine to update the fax number database, the fax machine updates the fax
5 number database.

1 13. A fax machine as in claim 10 wherein the handheld device is one of the
2 following:
3 a cell phone;
4 a personal digital assistant.

1 14. A handheld device comprising:
2 a display;
3 a memory in which is stored a database that includes phone numbers; and,
4 a wireless communication block, wherein the handheld device uses the
5 wireless communication block to establish communication with a fax machine
6 and in response to a user selecting a phone number from the database and a fax

1 option, the wireless communication block sends a fax command and the phone
2 number to the fax machine.

1 15. A handheld device as in claim 14 wherein after the wireless
2 communication block sends a fax command and the phone number to the fax
3 machine, the handheld device queries the user whether to update a fax number
4 database residing on the fax machine with the phone number.

1 16. A handheld device as in claim 14 wherein when the user requests
2 update of a fax number database residing on the fax machine, the handheld
3 device sends a command to the fax machine instructing the fax machine to
4 update the fax number database residing on the fax machine with the phone
5 number for the fax destination from the database residing on the handheld
6 device.

1 17. A handheld device as in claim 14 wherein when the user requests
2 update of a fax number database residing on the fax machine, the handheld
3 device sends a command to the fax machine instructing the fax machine to
4 update the fax number database residing on the fax machine with the phone
5 number for the fax destination and with additional information associated with
6 the phone number.

1 18. A handheld device as in claim 14 wherein the handheld device is one
2 of the following:

3 a cell phone;
4 a personal digital assistant.

1 19. Computer readable media that stores computer readable data which
2 when executed by a processor within a fax machine, directs the fax machine to
3 perform a method comprising the following:

4 upon detecting that a user has loaded a document into the fax machine
5 performing the following:
6 attempting to use a wireless communication to establish
7 communication with a handheld device, and
8 upon establishing communication, sending a command to the
9 handheld device, the command, requesting the handheld device to prompt the
10 user for a fax number.

1 20. Computer readable media as in claim 19, wherein the method
2 additionally comprises the following:

3 sending a facsimile transmission to the fax destination upon the fax
4 machine receiving a fax number from the handheld device.

1 21. Computer readable media as in claim 19, wherein the method
2 additionally comprises the following:

1 updating a fax number data base within the fax machine upon the fax
2 machine receiving a command from the handheld device instructing the fax
3 machine to update the fax number database.

1 22. Computer readable media that stores computer readable data which
2 when executed by a processor within a handheld device, directs the handheld
3 device to perform a method comprising the following:

4 using wireless communication to establish communication with a fax
5 machine; and,
6 sending a fax command and a phone number to the fax machine in
7 response to a user selecting a fax option and a phone number from a database
8 stored by the handheld device.

1 23. Computer readable media as in claim 22, wherein the method
2 additional comprises:
3 querying the user whether to update a fax number database residing on
4 the fax machine with the phone number.

1 24. Computer readable media as in claim 22, wherein the method
2 additional comprises:
3 sending a command to the fax machine instructing the fax machine to
4 update a fax number database residing on the fax machine with the phone

1 number for the fax destination from the database residing on the handheld
2 device when the user requests the update.

1 25. Computer readable media as in claim 22 wherein the handheld device
2 is one of the following:
3 a cell phone;
4 a personal digital assistant.

1 26. A method performed by a fax machine, the method comprising the
2 following:
3 upon detecting that a user has loaded a document into the fax machine
4 performing the following:
5 attempting to use a wireless communication to establish
6 communication with a handheld device, and
7 upon establishing communication, sending a command to the
8 handheld device, the command, requesting the handheld device to prompt the
9 user for a fax number.

1 27. A method as in claim 26 additionally comprising the following:
2 sending a facsimile transmission to the fax destination upon the fax
3 machine receiving a fax number from the handheld device.

1 28. A method as in claim 26 additionally comprising the following:

1 updating a fax number data base within the fax machine upon the fax
2 machine receiving a command from the handheld device instructing the fax
3 machine to update the fax number database.

1 29. A method performed by a handheld device, the method comprising
2 the following:

3 using wireless communication to establish communication with a fax
4 machine; and,

5 sending a fax command and a phone number to the fax machine in
6 response to a user selecting a fax option and the phone number from a database
7 stored by the handheld device.

1 30. A method as in claim 29, additionally comprising the following:
2 querying the user whether to update a fax number database residing on
3 the fax machine with the phone number.

1 31. A method as in claim 29 additional comprising the following:
2 sending a command to the fax machine instructing the fax machine to
3 update a fax number database residing on the fax machine with the phone
4 number for the fax destination upon the user request requesting the update.

1 32. A method as in claim 29 wherein the handheld device is one of the
2 following:

- 1 a cell phone;
- 2 a personal digital assistant.

1 33. A fax machine comprising:

2 means for receiving documents;

3 means for transmitting and receiving wireless communications; and,

4 means for, upon detecting that a user has loaded a document into the fax

5 machine, attempting to use the means for transmitting and receiving wireless

6 communications to establish communication with a handheld device, and upon

7 establishing communication, sending a command to the handheld device,

8 requesting the handheld device to prompt the user for a fax number.

1 34. A fax machine as in claim 33 additionally comprising:

2 means for storing a fax number database, wherein upon the fax machine

3 receiving a command from the handheld device instructing the fax machine to

4 update the fax number database, the fax machine updates the fax number

5 database.

1 35. A handheld device comprising:

2 means for displaying information;

3 means for storing a database that includes phone numbers; and, means

4 for transmitting and receiving wireless communications, wherein the handheld

5 device uses the means for transmitting and receiving wireless communications to

1 establish communication with a fax machine and in response to a user selecting a
2 phone number from the database and a fax option, the means for transmitting
3 and receiving wireless communications sends a fax command and the phone
4 number to the fax machine.

1 36. A handheld device as in claim 35 wherein when the user requests
2 update of a fax number database residing on the fax machine, the handheld
3 device sends a command to the fax machine instructing the fax machine to
4 update the fax number database residing on the fax machine with the phone
5 number for the fax destination from the database residing on the handheld
6 device.

1 37. A handheld device as in claim 35 wherein the handheld device is one
2 of the following:
3 a cell phone;
4 a personal digital assistant.
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